

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Canceled).

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein the cutting means are biased in the first position.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein, in both the first and the second position, the cutting means extend virtually completely within the housing.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein the housing is provided with locking means for at least partly confining a supply roll within the housing, wherein blocking means are provided for the cutting means and/or the operating means therefor, which blocking means are designed ~~such~~, such that the locking means can only be opened and/or taken away when the cutting means have been brought into the first position.

Claim 5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the housing comprises a flap, wherein the blocking means can be operated by the flap.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein, by operating the blocking means, ~~in particular by opening the flap~~, the operating means for the cutting means are blocked.

Claim 7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the blocking means are designed for preventing the flap from opening before the cutting means have been brought into the first position.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein the guiding means comprise at least one driven roller with which, during use, adhesive tape can be moved in the direction of and through the dispense opening.

Claim 9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a driving mechanism is provided for manually driving said at least one driven roller.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is arranged for dispensing tape for medical application, in particular~~ A method of dispensing tape for medical application on or adjacent an individual's skin comprising the following steps:

providing a tape dispensing apparatus having:

a housing with a dispense opening;

a receiving means for receiving a supply roll of adhesive tape;

guiding means for, during use, feeding to and through the dispense opening a leading end of adhesive tape unwound from the supply roll;

cutting means for cutting adhesive tape from the supply roll brought outside the dispense opening; and

operating means for moving the cutting means between a first position largely retracted in the housing and a second, cutting position such that the cutting means can be brought into contact with adhesive tape fed into and/or through the dispense opening;

sterilizing the tape dispensing apparatus;

inserting a roll of adhesive tape in the housing; and

dispensing the tape on or adjacent the skin of an individual.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ The method according to claim 10, wherein the tape dispensing apparatus is autoclavable or differently sterilizable.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein the housing comprises a handle and a body, wherein the receiving means for the supply roll are provided in the handle and the operating means substantially in the body.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 1,~~ A hand operated tape apparatus for dispensing adhesive tape, comprising:

a hand-held housing having a dispense opening;

a receiving means for receiving a supply roll of adhesive tape;

a guiding means for, during use, feeding to and through the dispense opening a leading end of adhesive tape unwound from the supply roll;

cutting means for cutting adhesive tape from the supply roll brought outside the dispense opening; and

operating means for moving the cutting means between a first position largely retracted in the housing and a second, cutting position;

wherein the cutting means can be brought into contact with adhesive tape fed into and/or through the dispense opening; and

wherein the apparatus is housing, receiving means, guiding means, cutting means, and operating means are substantially manufactured from metal parts.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein the apparatus is arranged for dispensing adhesive tape for closing boxes and the like, wherein the housing comprises a handle and a body, wherein the receiving means for the supply roll are substantially received ~~in the~~ in the body, together with the guiding means.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein the cutting means comprise a knife, received in a substantially straight guide, which is substantially linearly movable between the first and the second position.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 1~~ claim 17, wherein the receiving means for the supply roll are fastened to a base plate which is movable relative to the housing, ~~wherein~~ wherein a pressure roller is connected to the base plate for pressing on adhesive tape extending along said pressure roller, the pressure roller being arranged for pushing the adhesive tape through the dispense opening.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 1 and a supply roll of adhesive tape;~~ An apparatus for dispensing adhesive tape comprising:

a housing having a dispense opening;

receiving means for receiving a supply roll of adhesive tape;

guiding means for, during use, feeding to and through the dispense opening a leading end of adhesive tape unwound from the supply roll;

cutting means for cutting adhesive tape from the supply roll brought outside the dispense opening; and

operating means for moving the cutting means between a first position largely retracted in the housing and a second, cutting position;

wherein the cutting means can be brought into contact with adhesive tape fed into and/or through the dispense opening; and

wherein the receiving means comprise first receiving elements and the supply roll comprises a core with second receiving elements, wherein the first and second receiving elements are tailored to each other such that the supply roll can only be inserted with the core onto the receiving elements in one position.

Claim 18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the receiving means comprise a stub onto which the core of the supply roll can be slipped, wherein the housing comprises a cover which can be closed over the supply roll, which cover, in closed position, is located at a relatively small distance from the core.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 1;~~ An apparatus for dispensing adhesive tape comprising:

a housing having a dispense opening;

receiving means for receiving a supply roll of adhesive tape;

guiding means for, during use, feeding to and through the dispense opening a leading end of adhesive tape unwound from the supply roll;

cutting means for cutting adhesive tape from the supply roll brought outside the dispense opening; and

operating means for moving the cutting means between a first position largely retracted in the housing and a second, cutting position;

wherein the cutting means can be brought into contact with adhesive tape fed into and/or through the dispense opening; and

wherein at least two receiving positions for supply rolls of tape are provided in the housing, ~~wherein~~ and wherein means are provided for, during use, dispensing and cutting off tape from at least one of the supply rolls, at will.

Claim 20. (New) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein by opening the flap the operating means for the cutting means are blocked.